

*Senate Republican Policy Office*

# A Look Ahead

## Policy Committee Summary Report

**Week of April 30, 2001**

*This report details selected significant Senate legislative activity anticipated next week. It includes information current as of Thursday, April 26, 2001. Please refer general questions on this report to Cynthia Bryant, Senate Republican Policy Staff Director, at 323-9221.*

## Agriculture & Water Resources

*Consultant: Lisa Ryan, 324-5525*  
Tuesday, May 1  
9:30 a.m., Room 112

**SB 405 (McPherson)**—Transfers \$42,900,000 from the General Fund to the California Water Resources Development Bond Fund to restore funds that were used to purchase electricity in December 2000 and January 2001.

## Banking, Commerce & International Trade

*Consultant: Jim Gentry, 445-4264*  
Wednesday, May 2  
1:30 p.m., Room 2040

**SB 608 (Dunn)**—Attacks “predatory lending” in such a way that credit will become less available for low income individuals and persons with less than the best credit record.

## Floor Session

Monday, April 30, Check-in

Tuesday, May 1, Check-In

Wednesday, May 2, Check-In

Thursday, May 3, 8:30 a.m.

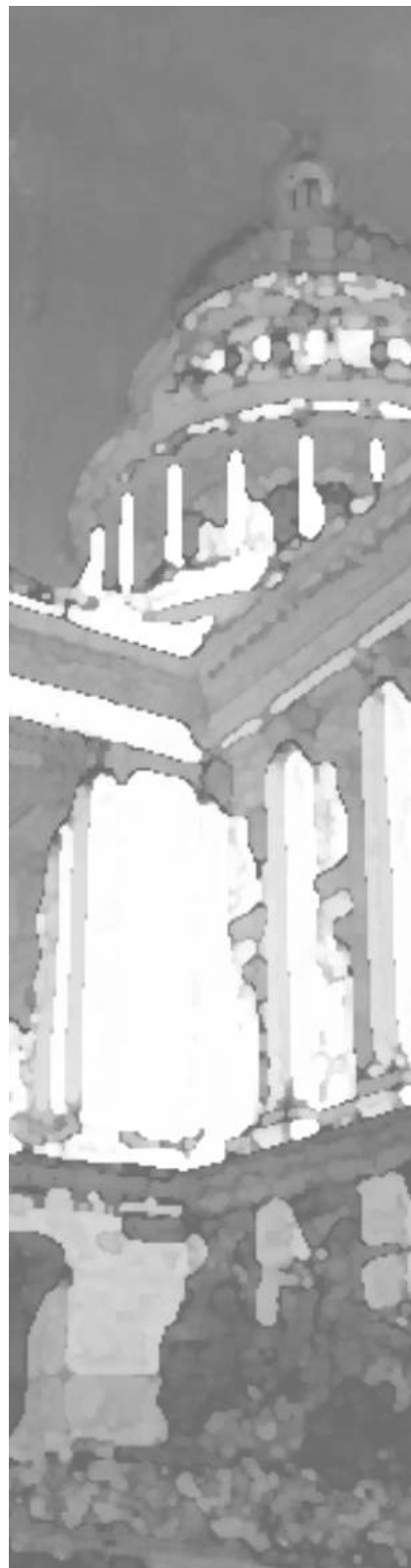
**SJR 9 (Costa)**—Encourages the President and Congress to create a list of prohibited countries and/or foreign companies which may not gain access to United States capital, nor receive foreign direct investment from the United States.

## Business & Professions

*Consultant: Richard Paul, 324-5526*  
Monday, April 30  
10:00 a.m., Room 3191  
(please note date and time change)

**SB 85 (Murray)**—Mandates that health clubs offer memberships contracts that are one year in duration. Furthermore, this bill mandates that health club membership contracts have the length of the membership term printed in 14 point type above the signature area of the contract.

**SB 537 (Vasconcellos)**—Creates a new board within the Department of Consumer Affairs for the purpose of licensing and regulating alcohol and substance abuse counselors.



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**SB 573 (Chesbro)**—Authorizes the California Board of Dentistry to issue a special permit to a person licensed to practice dentistry in another state or country who has not taken a board examination but has a contract to practice dentistry full time in a primary care clinic.

**SB 1174 (Polanco)**—Allows current practice to continue by exempting certified medical technicians, such as paramedics and emergency medical technicians, who perform blood glucose tests in the field from the Department of Health Services regulations regarding the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Act of 1995.

## Education

*Consultant: Kerri Ruzicka, 323-8890*  
Wednesday, May 2  
9:30 a.m., Room 4203

**SB 113 (Haynes)**—Prohibits a school from conducting a physical examination of a pupil at school without consent from the pupil's parent or guardian. Current law allows a physical examination unless a parent provides written permission, allowing schools to conduct physical examinations without parental notice or involvement. SB 113 would also limit schools' authority to conduct surveys of students to gather personal information such as religious or political beliefs, sexual attitudes, and financial information.

## Elections & Reapportionment

*Consultant: Cynthia Bryant, 323-9221*  
Wednesday, May 2  
9:30 a.m., Room 3191

**SB 3 (Brulte)**—Requires campaign advocacy telephone calls to have a disclaimer at the end of the call announcing who paid for the call.

## Energy, Utilities & Commerce

*Consultant: Ray Thompson, 324-5233*  
Tuesday, May 1  
1:30 p.m., Room 112

**SB 8x (Alarcon)**—Removes the existing requirement for a municipal utility to obtain permission from a utility regulated by the PUC before selling power to the regulated utility's customers.

**SB 23x (Soto)**—Effectively eliminates the procedural and legal safeguards for local governments and citizens in the formation of municipal utility districts and in condemning related utility property and facilities for the municipal utility's use.

**AB 60x (Hertzberg)**—Requires, as a condition for obtaining state approval for a generating facility in California, that the applicant offer a contract to sell all of its power to a regulated utility, a

municipality, or the Department of Water Resources.

## Health & Human Services

*Consultants: Debby Rogers, 323-8898*  
*Dan Chick, 324-5509*  
Wednesday, May 2  
1:30 p.m., Room 4203

*No significant legislation.*

## Judiciary

*Consultant: Mike Petersen, 324-5532*  
Tuesday, May 1  
1:30 p.m., Room 4203

**SB 139 (Haynes)**—Prohibits the State Bar from confiscating the interest generated by client trust fund accounts. This bill would require the California State Bar to recognize the legal rights of clients of California attorneys.

**SB 565 (Morrow)**—Provides for a comprehensive improvement of the law

### *Focus on Redevelopment*

Three bills are scheduled to be heard that dramatically affect redevelopment agencies. Each allows a redevelopment agency to extend the time limits imposed on their redevelopment plans, and two of these bills prohibit a referendum by the voters.

**SB 411 (Perata)** and **SB 1137 (Ortiz)** are identical, except one applies to Oakland's City Council and the other to Sacramento's City Council, respectively. They allow the two city council to adopt an ordinance by December 31, 2002, that extends the deadlines of their redevelopment plan. Further, each postpones the statutorily required pass-through payments to other local governments until 2005-06. Although SB 411 and SB 1137 require the city council to amend the plan by adopting an ordinance, the bills provide that the city council's ordinance is not referendable. This potentially thwarts the ability of voters to overturn these decisions.

**SB 211 (Torlakson)** also extends the timelines effecting all redevelopment plans, but it puts a number of conditions on redevelopment agencies that want to extend their project areas. The conditions require the city to identify the significant blight that remains on specific parcels and they must restrict activities to eradicating the blight on just those parcels. SB 211 contrasts with SB 411 and SB 1137, which do not require Oakland or Sacramento officials to demonstrate that downtown properties still suffer from physical and economic blight before they extend their deadlines.

regarding these lawsuits which are subject to so much abuse by trial lawyers.

**SB 1133 (Poochigian)**—Makes it easier for businesses to defend class action lawsuits by providing for an interim appeals procedure.

**SB 352 (Kuehl)**—Extends the current fee structure for members of the California Bar for two years.

## Local Government

*Consultant: Paul Bauer, 324-7067*  
Wednesday, May 2  
9:30 a.m., Room 112

**Redevelopment Alert**—*See Focus Box*

**SB 671 (Poochigian)**—Allows counties to hold closed sessions to discuss an employee's application for the early withdrawal of deferred compensation funds when the application is based on financial hardship.

**SB 142 (Haynes)**—Prohibits local governments from imposing a land use regulation in residential areas that imposes a substantial burden on a person's exercise of religion unless there is a compelling governmental interest and it uses the least restrictive means.

**SB 207 (Knight)**—Authorizes cities and counties to issue bonds to provide funds for the construction of facilities that generate, produce, or transmit electric energy for lighting, heating, and power for public or private uses.

**SB 1039 (McClintock)**—Provides that any power plant facility approved by the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission is exempt from review by any city or county if the facility is proposed to be sited on land zoned as industrial or agriculture at the time the property was last acquired.

## Public Safety

*Consultant: David Quintana, 445-3688*  
Tuesday, May 1  
9:30 a.m., Room 4203

**SB 1217 (Romero)**—Prohibits any prisoner, whether federal or from another state, from being incarcerated in any public or private prison within California. This bill will be a near mortal blow to the private prison industry in California. While private prison operators will still be able to cut contracts with counties within California, they will not be able to contract for the far more lucrative federal prisoners, primarily illegal aliens.

## Transportation

*Consultant: Edward Morley, 322-6670*  
Tuesday, May 1  
1:30 p.m., Room 3191

**SB 956 (Ackerman)**—Commits \$500 million in General Fund revenues in 2001-2002 to the maintenance and repair of the state's aging local streets and roads system. This bill is one of the Joint Republican Caucus budget proposals and will help to address the \$11 billion funding shortfall for deferred maintenance projects identified by the LAO last year.

**SB 433 (Monteith)**—Provides \$50 million in General Fund revenues to fund the Carl Moyer Memorial Air Quality Standards Attainment Trust Fund, which provides businesses with a tax credit for converting or retrofitting their heavy duty diesel engines with low emission engines or technologies. This measure is one of the Joint Republican Caucus Budget proposals for 2001.

**SB 171 (McClintock)**—Provides rapid relief from growing congestion by allowing the Governor to invoke Emergency Powers to relieve traffic gridlock.

**SCA 3 (Karnette)**—Provides for the submission of a ballot measure to

amend the State Constitution. Article XIX currently guarantees that revenues collected by the state excise tax on gasoline are spent on transportation infrastructure. SCA 3 would eliminate the guarantee, allowing those revenues to be used for transit rolling stock, maintenance and operating costs.

**SB 910 (Dunn)**—Addresses the housing crisis by creating sanctions for local governments that fail to provide adequate housing to meet population demands. Cities failing to meet their housing need will be penalized through the withholding of state transportation funding in amounts associated to the population of the jurisdiction.

**SB 1101 (Knight)**—Appropriates \$75 million from the General Fund (GF) to Caltrans for the purpose of widening State Highway Route 138 in the County of Los Angeles, and to realign State Highway Route 58 for safety purposes at the "Boron S" near the city of Boron.